

JJ&RA - JUVENILE REHABILITATION

Transition Specialist

2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET



Reduction Option	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.0)
GF-State	(\$77,000)	(\$76,000)	(\$153,000)
Total	(\$77,000)	(\$76,000)	(\$153,000)

REDUCTION OPTION SUMMARY

As required by 2015-17 Biennial Budget Instructions, the Juvenile Justice and Rehabilitation Administration (JJRA), Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) is submitting the following reduction option that would eliminate one Transition Specialist FTE who coordinates the transition of youth at institutions to community facilities (step-down programs). By implementing this reduction, JR expects to see a decrease in the fill rate at community facilities and an increased in youth in institutions. The cost per youth served in JR may increase as it is more cost effective for youth to be served in a community facility than at an institution. JJRA will need to re-engineer the process for placement of youth in group home settings.

REDUCTION OPTION DETAIL

JR currently has three Transition Specialist FTEs who are responsible for transitioning JR youth from secure care institutions to minimum security community facilities, community based Regional Treatment and Care programs, and the Basic Training Camp. In addition, these positions serve as statewide liaisons and subject matter experts to JR Leadership, Regional Administrators, Superintendents, Community Facilities and community programs to ensure delivery of JR policies on security, public safety, transition and reintegration of youth into communities. Although these positions are based in JR's Central office, each is connected to one of the three institutions, Echo Glen Children's Center, Green Hill School and Naselle Youth Camp. These positions are responsible for identifying eligible youth, assessing suitability and determining appropriate community facility placement for the youth at their respective institutions. In addition, they provide consultation and training to staff and youth at the institutions regarding community facility eligibility, suitability and placement.

JR has the capacity for 118 youth in community facilities. On average, approximately 25 youth transition to community facilities each month, with an average stay of 111.5 days or 16 weeks. Transition Specialists are expected to maintain a 90 percent fill rate at community facilities.



DSHS VISION

People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded

DSHS MISSION

To transform lives

DSHS VALUES

Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service

JJ&RA - JUVENILE REHABILITATION

Transition Specialist

2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Transforming
Lives

Reducing the Transition Specialists by 1.0 FTE would leave 2.0 FTEs to fulfill these duties statewide impacting the ability to fill community facility beds and achieve the 90 percent fill rate. Institution and Community Facility staff will have to take on some of the duties and responsibilities of the Transition Specialists in order to continue to keep community facilities 90 percent filled. This may cause an impact to workload as JR re-engineers the process for placement of youth in group home settings.

These reductions could be implemented immediately in order to achieve maximum savings. There are no state laws or rules surrounding this policy change that would require amendment.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

Step-down programs provide juvenile justice youth an opportunity for a more gradual transition from a secure institutional setting, better preparing them for success when they return to their home communities. Youth who transition to the community through a step-down program have greater success and a lower recidivism rate than youth who release directly to the community from a secure institutional setting. Citizens of the state may be impacted by the increased cost per youth and by the decrease to community safety.



DSHS VISION

People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded

DSHS MISSION

To transform lives

DSHS VALUES

Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service